

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 04223 121225Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 4223

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SREF, UN, SU
SUBJECT: 33RD UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: SUDANESE VIEWS

REF: STATE 225331

SUMMARY: SUDANGOV WILL BE PRINCIPALLY INTERESTED IN MIDEAST AND AFRICAN ISSUES AT UNGA BUT OUTCOME OF CAMP DAVID SUMMIT, NAMIBIA DEVELOPMENTS AND NIMEIRI-CARTER MEETING SEPTEMBER 21 MAKE IT IMPOS- SIBLE AT PRESENT TO PREDICT HOW SUDANDEL WILL HANDLE VARIOUS REGIONAL ISSUES. MOREOVER, SUDANESE, INCLUDING NIMEIRI HIM- SELF IN HIS ADDRESS TO UNGA, WILL FEEL CONSTRAINED BECAUSE OF ROLE AS OAU PRESIDENT. ON OTHER ISSUES SUDANDEL CONCERNED OVER CYPRUS QUESTION AND SUDANESE THEMSELVES WILL LIKELY MENTION ERITREAN REFUGEE PROBLEM AND SITUATION IN HORN, NOTABLY FOREIGN INTERVENTION THERE. END SUMMARY

1. I DISCUSSED REFTTEL IN DETAIL WITH ABDEL MAGID ALI HASSAN, FONMIN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR SEPTEMBER 11. HE WILL BE MEMBER SUDANDEL THROUGHOUT UNGA AND WILL ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 04223 121225Z

NIMEIRI AND FONMIN EL RASHID EL TAHIR BAKR TO NEW YORK LATER THIS MONTH. HE MENTIONED THAT MINSTATE FRANCIS DENG AS WELL AS NEW SUDANESE PERMREP WOULD ALSO BE PART OF SUDANDEL AT UNGA. HASSAN FULLY CONVERSANT WITH MOST UNGA ISSUES, AND HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH NAM AND OTHER MEETINGS WHERE SEVERAL OF THESE ISSUES HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED.

2. HASSAN NOTED THAT IN HIS ADDRESS AS OAU PRESIDENT NIMEIRI INTENDS AVOID SAYING ANYTHING CONTROVERSIAL. SPEECH, THEREFORE, LIKELY TO DEAL IN GENERALITIES. HOWEVER, HE DOES BELIEVE THAT NIMEIRI WILL MENTION SITUATION IN HORN, NOTABLY FOREIGN (I.E. RUSSIAN, CUBAN) INVOLVEMENT THERE AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, SUDANDEL FEELS CONSTRAINED BECAUSE OF ITS SPECIAL OAU ROLE THIS YEAR. HE INDICATED SUDANDEL WILLING CONSULT WITH U.S. OFFICIALS AND ALSO TO BE HELPFUL BEHIND THE SCENES, BUT HE ASKED FOR UNDERSTANDING IN LIGHT SUDAN'S NEED TO BE IMPARTIAL ON ISSUES OF AFRICAN CONCERN.

3. IN REVIEWING REFTEL, HASSAN MADE FEW COMMENTS. HE SAID NOTHING RE ECONOMIC ISSUES, OTHER THAN TO INDICATE GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH ANALYSIS IN REFTEL, AND HE AGREED THAT 33RD UNGA LIKELY TO BE MORE "POLITICAL" AND LESS "ECONOMIC" THAN OTHER RECENT ASSEMBLIES. HE AGREED AS WELL THAT MIDEAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES WERE MOST IMPORTANT. HOWEVER, CAMP DAVID SUMMIT, RESULTS OF PRESENT EFFORTS RE NAMIBIA AND NIMEIRI'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER SEPTEMBER 21 ALL WERE LIKELY TO HAVE IMPORTANT BEARING ON SUDANGOV'S APPROACH TO THESE ISSUES AT UNGA. THEREFORE, THERE WAS LITTLE HASSAN COULD ADD TO REMARKS CONTAINED REFTEL. WE SHALL BE REASSESSING MAJOR ISSUES BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT MONTH, HE SAID. HE DID, HOWEVER, REITERATE THAT SUDANESE WERE VERY SENSITIVE OVER INTRA-ARAB POLITICAL ASPECTS OF ZIONISM-RACISM LINKAGE QUESTION. HE SAID IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE CONDUCIVE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KHARTO 04223 121225Z

SUDAN'S BROADER GOALS TO PUSH LINKAGE AT THIS TIME BUT IT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR SUDAN AND OTHER MODERATES TO OPPOSE HARDLINERS IN ARAB CAUCUS. HE ASKED FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING. I URGED SUDAN AND OTHER MODERATES NOT RPT NOT TO ABDICATE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO RADICALS AND ALSO REMINDED HASSAN THAT THIS ISSUE WAS HIGHLY EMOTIONAL ONE IN U.S. AS WELL. I SAID ARABS SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER RAMIFICATIONS OF RAISING ZIONISM-RACISM LINKAGE IN NEW YORK THIS FALL IN LIGHT STRONG FEELINGS IN U.S.

5. ON OTHER ISSUES, HASSAN HAD LITTLE OR NOTHING TO SAY. I STRESSED USG DESIRE TO AVOID DEBATE ON PUERTO RICO. HASSAN SAID HE DOUBTED KOREAN QUESTION WOULD COME UP. HE SAID CYPRUS ISSUE BOTHERED HIM BECAUSE GREEK CYPRIOTS AT BELGRADE NAM HAD BEEN DIFFICULT AND EXTREME. HE, THEREFORE, FEARED THAT THIS ISSUE COULD BE HIGHLY CONTENTIOUS IN NEW YORK. HE SAID SUDANGOV POLICY IS THAT CYPRUS SHOULD REMAIN UNIFIED, INDEPENDENT AND NON-ALIGNED WHICH IS POSITION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE.

6. I ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY MATTER NOT COVERED IN REFTEL THAT HASSAN THOUGHT MIGHT BE IMPORTANT. HE SAID SUDANGOV HAD NOT RPT NOT DECIDED FINALLY, BUT THERE WAS GOOD CHANCE IT

WOULD RAISE ERITREAN REFUGEE QUESTION IN THIRD COMMITTEE (SOCIAL)
WHEN UNHCR REPORT WAS DISCUSSED. HE SAID REFUGEE PROBLEM
WAS BECOMING MORE THAN SUDANGOV COULD HANDLE ALONE AND IT
WISHED INTERNATIONALIZE ISSUE. (SEE KHARTOUM 4168)

7. COMMENT: BELIEVE SUDANDEL WILL WISH CONSULT CLOSELY WITH
USDEL, BUT SUDANESE WILL FEEL MORE CONSTRAINED THAN USUAL BECAUSE
OF OAU PRESIDENCY. IN GENERAL SUDANESE CAN BE EXPECTED TAKE
MODERATE POSITION ON MOST ISSUES, BUT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THEY
WILL PUSH HARD AGAINST EITHER ARAB OR AFRICAN RADICALS. KEY
TO GAINING SUDANESE SUPPORT ON ISSUES OF CONCERN TO US WILL BE
TO REACH THEM EARLY ENOUGH AND TO BE ABLE TO SHOW THEY NOT RPT NOT
ALONE.

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PAGE 04 KHARTO 04223 121225Z

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